

## MINUTES

### INTERAGENCY MIGRANT WORKER POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

September 30, 2003

The quarterly meeting of the Interagency Migrant Worker Policy Committee was held at 10:00 a.m. on September 30, 2003 at the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry. The Chairman, Commissioner C. Ray Davenport, who called the meeting to order, and the Policy Committee Administrator, Betty B. Jenkins, were present.

In attendance were the following:

Ron Thompson, Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles  
Perida Giles, Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
Harry Gregori, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
Don Boswell, Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control  
Jane Brown, Virginia Department of Social Services  
Jack Turner, Virginia Employment Commission  
Michelle Rivera, Virginia Employment Commission  
Gary Hagy, Virginia Department of Health  
Lisa Eggleston, Virginia Department of Education  
Jim McKean, Virginia Department of Business Assistance  
Jeff Nelson, Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services  
Rick Cagan, MSFW Board

Ms. Jenkins distributed the minutes of the June 17, 2003 Migrant Worker Policy Committee meeting and the July 16, 2003 MSFW Board meeting and other information.

Commissioner Davenport invited members to introduce themselves. He then requested a motion to approve the minutes from the June 17, 2003 meeting; Mr. Gregori moved the minutes be approved and Mr. Boswell seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as presented.

Ms. Jenkins gave a brief overview of the July 16, 2003 MSFW Board meeting. She stated there were presentations by Nancy Stern of Eastern Shore Rural Health and James Albright of the Eastern Shore Migrant Farmworkers Service Council. She noted that Kenny Annis and Rick Hall had made arrangements for tours of the Eastern Shore Farmers' Market, farms, a migrant camp, a Head Start facility, a packing plant, and the Eastville apartments. She reported that a representative of the Governor's Office would speak at the next Board meeting to clarify the Board's scope of jurisdiction.

Commissioner Davenport initiated discussion on the Study Mandate, House Joint Resolution No. 604 (2003 Session), noting that the Mandate states that JLARC will complete all meetings by Nov. 30 and submit findings and recommendations no later than the first day of the 2004 Regular Session of the General Assembly. (This study concerns the foreign-born population in Virginia.) He added that issues can vary for migrant and seasonal farmworkers versus regular

immigrants. Mr. Turner stated that he has had an ongoing dialog with JLARC and has referred them to other representatives who have more information in a particular field. Mr. Cagan questioned whether the study will have the necessary information. Commissioner Davenport asked Mr. Turner to forward the JLARC representative's name to Ms. Jenkins to contact them regarding any MSFW Board information they may need.

Concerning the legal presence issue, Mr. Thompson explained that as of January 1, applicants for drivers' licenses will have to show evidence of legal presence. He noted that the list of acceptable documents will be available in December. He said there would be a meeting in Room 702 at DMV at 10:00 a.m. to summarize the issues on legal presence. Commissioner Davenport added that he and Mr. Turner attended the Legal Presence meeting at DMV and that Deputy Commissioner Philip Vasquez will speak on legal presence at the next MSFW Board meeting. Mr. Turner interjected that the VEC Website has a link to the DMV Website to obtain information on legal presence.

Mr. Cagan announced that there will be a Migrant Health Conference in Natural Bridge on November 12 where a workshop on Medicaid reciprocity/portability will be held. He plans to have a draft of the survey prior to the conference and will provide it to Commissioner Davenport after the conference. He requested comments from DMAS, DSS, and VDH on the contents of the survey. He also spoke of a health study the Department of Health and Human Services is conducting and Mr. Ben Flores of HHS requested that he wait until the study is published.

Ms. Brown discussed collaboration conferences which DSS is holding in Chesapeake, Abingdon and Lynchburg. These conferences are designed to help strengthen Virginia's One-Stop Employment Network through new partnerships with grass roots community and faith-based organizations. They will also provide training on ways to partner with public agencies and include workshops on funding opportunities and grant proposal writing. There are no fees to attend, but registration is required. She mentioned the Community Resource Directory which is available on DSS' Website.

Mr. Cagan stated that there is an Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride, Rally and Interfaith Prayer Service to be held at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart on October 1 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Immigrants will be arriving on buses from across the U.S. to participate.

**The next Interagency Migrant Worker Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2003.**

The next MSFW Board Meeting is scheduled for October 29, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. in House Room 1, State Capitol.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.